

Smuggling of gold biscuits by Staff

1718. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines staffer smuggled gold biscuits from Sharjah in the last week of June of flight IC-882;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stern action proposed to get rid of such anti-national elements in Government Company, immediately?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been reported by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, New Delhi that on 27th June, 2000 Shri Vasudev Prasad, Foreman, Staff No. 278866 retrieved a packet containing 44 gold biscuits of 10 tolas each totally weighting 5.130 kgs. from one of the rear toilets of aircraft which operated flight IC-882 (Sharjah- Delhi) in the morning of 27th June, 2000 while the aircraft was parked at domestic airport after operating its international flight. Subsequently, Shri Vasudev Prasad handed over these biscuits to an outsider. On further interrogation the officers of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence recovered another packet containing 44 gold biscuits concealed in the rear toilet of the said aircraft. Shri Vasudev Prasad was arrested by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and is in judicial custody.

(c) Shri Vasudev Prasad has been placed under suspension by the Competent Authority with effect from 27th June, 2000. Disciplinary proceedings are being initiated against him.

Air Bus Service between Delhi and Bhubaneshwar

1719. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from Government of Orissa for Air Bus Service from Delhi to Bhubaneshwar and *vice-versa*;

(b) if so, whether the Air Bus Service has been provided;